

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

MAY, 1944

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Monthly Memo TO: Local Presidents

SOON after you receive this Bulletin, many of you, we hope, will be coming to New York for our annual meeting. May I stress one point, and ask each local president to pass the word along. This year the meeting is for MEMBERS ONLY, so bring your membership card to show when you register. Please don't forget this.

Those of you who are state voting delegates will have your credentials but everyone else — and that includes most of those who will attend — will be asked to show his membership card. This is necessary because of the limited facilities due to war conditions.

Membership — Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will find the total membership figures for this year. Congratulations to each and every association that shared in these gains. If you could not do so this year, we will hope you may next year. To keep this membership and to accomplish worth-while things for your own homes, schools, and communities provides a very real challenge to all leaders to plan next year's programs carefully, and to begin this planning well in advance of the first meetings in the fall. We hope you will keep some of your activities going all summer.

Preschool — Do you know that well over 3,000,000 babies were born in this country last year? Is your association making plans to help these young mothers care for their children intelligently? Are you helping the strangers in your community — wives of workers and of service men — to meet together in a friendly way while learning more about child care? The study course in the Magazine for the coming year is designed to serve as the basis of such discussion groups. It's a good idea to plan your groups and get your subscriptions for the Magazine during the summer,



then you will be "all set to go" early in the fall. You might meet on the porch or in a garden during the summer, with different mothers taking turns in caring for all the little folks. This will give each mother some time free for other things she wants to do, but can't when she has a baby or small child with her all the time.

Homes — Do you realize that more American men are thinking seriously about their homes than ever before? That they long to be at home or to start a home of their own? Are we doing our part to protect our homes, to bring up our daughters with the understanding that homemaking is the best possible career for most girls? Can we help to give the *good* homemaker the same recognition we give the successful woman in business, in the arts, or in the sciences? Homemaking is all three combined — it is a business and an art, and it makes use of all the sciences.

Need for Teachers — One of the truly critical situations in the country today is the low enrollment in our teachers' colleges. Who is going to teach our children? Who is going to give the additional education that so many

thousands of our returning service men and women will desire, or to teach the boys and girls who, we hope, will soon return to high school? Teaching is an essential industry and also a true patriotic service. Can we urge our girls who seem suited for teaching to prepare themselves for the classroom, pointing out that this is also a good preparation for family life later on? Can we help some of the young men who are not going into service to feel the challenge of the teaching profession? We need more men in our schools. Perhaps we can influence some of our young people who have had to leave school temporarily to prepare themselves for teaching when they return. Incidentally, we might see what sort of salary and living conditions we offer the teachers in our own community. Can they find a suitable place to live? Do we treat them as human beings? Are they paid enough to live on, now that all costs have increased greatly?

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To all of you who are newly elected, I send good wishes; please remember, every one of you, that I enjoy hearing from you. If you are going out of office, please send the name of your successor to your state office so we may have it in the National Office and we may keep in touch with your association.

Next month watch for reports of our New York conference.

Mennetta A. Hastings!

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



NATIONAL OFFICERS NOMINATED

The nominating committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has made public the following slate of nominees to be presented for election in May, 1944:

Vice-President, Region III — Mrs. R. B. Gordon, Memphis, Tennessee

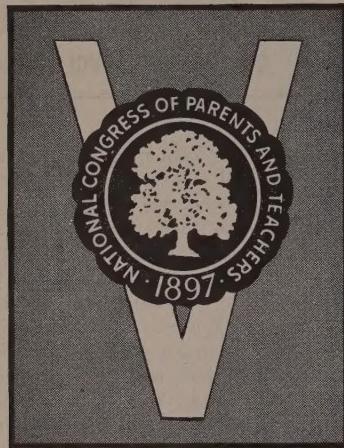
Vice-President, Region V — Mrs. E. W. Emery, Atchison, Kansas

Vice-President, Region VII — Mrs. J. S. Stewart, Longview, Washington

Vice-President, Region VIII — Mrs. O. C. Ufford, Fort Collins, Colorado

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

Theme: All Children Are Our Children • New York • May 22-24, 1944



INSTEAD of the usual annual convention, this year the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will hold a streamlined Wartime Conference on Childhood and Youth. The subjects to be discussed and the methods of handling them are planned specifically to meet present-day war-conditioned needs. The conference is designed throughout to give the greatest possible help — and in the most practical way — to all those who attend. Workshops and symposiums will take the place of the usual chairmen's conferences, with National officers and chairmen participating.

Experts and "resource" people from government agencies and other cooperating organizations will also be present to give up-to-the-minute data.

PROGRAM

Monday, May 22

First General Session — 10:00 a.m.

Processional

Salute to the flag

Invocation

Greetings: Mrs. Avery Pratt, president, New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers

Reports of committees

Assembly singing

Presentation of Conference Theme: Mrs. William A. Hastings, President

Address: "Foreshadows of Tomorrow," Captain Gill Robb Wilson, Aviation Editor, New York *Herald-Tribune*

Second General Session — 2:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: "Parent Education and the Citizens of Tomorrow" led by Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann

Participants:

"The Young Wife and Mother" — Mrs. Garry Cleveland Myers, Associate Editor, *Children's Activities*

"The Parents of Preschool Age Children" — Ethel Kawin, Director of Guidance for Public Schools, Glencoe, Illinois, and Lecturer in Education at the University of Chicago

"The Parents of Elementary School Children" — Ernest Osborne, Department of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University.

"The Parents of Adolescents" — Druzilla Kent, Professor of Home Economics Education, University of Tennessee

"The Adolescents" — Evelyn Millis Duvall, Director, The Association for Family Living

"Young People in Service and Their Parents" — Sidonie Gruenberg, Director, Child Study Association of America

3:45 p.m. — Workshop Groups and Presiding Officers

"War Activities" — Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher

"Community School Lunch" — Mrs. Paul H. Leonard

"Publicity" — Mrs. John E. Hayes

"Legislation" — Mrs. Malcolm McClellan

"Some Basic Needs of the Local Association" — Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson

"Special Problems of the High School Association" — Mrs. Grover Hartt

"Special Problems of the Preschool Groups" — Mrs. P. B. Digby, Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson

Third General Session — 7:30 p.m.

Address: "Our Homes in the Postwar World" — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Tuesday, May 23

Fourth General Session — 9:00 a.m.

Address: Dr. John W. Studebaker, U.S. Commissioner of Education

Symposium and Participants:

Brigadier General Walter L. Weible, Director of Military Training, Army Service Forces; Dr. John W. McCarthy, President, American Vocational Association; Dr. G. L. Maxwell, Assistant Secretary, Educational Policies Commission.

Fifth General Session — 2:00 p.m.

Address: "The Meaning of Life Membership" — Mrs. Fred M. Raymond

Presentation of Honorary Life Memberships.

3:15 p.m. — Symposiums and Presiding Officers

"Keeping All Children Healthy and Safe" — Mrs. L. W. Hughes

"For All Children — A Good Home" — Dr. Alice Sowers

"The School" — Howard V. Funk

"The Community Is Challenged" — Mrs. Warren L. Mabrey

"Problems Confronting Parent-Teacher Leaders During the Postwar Years" — Mrs. J. W. Bingham

Sixth General Session — 7:00 p.m.

Allied Nations Dinner

Address: Miss Craig McGeachy, Director of Welfare and Relief, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

Wednesday, May 24

8:00 a.m. — National chairmen's "At Home"

Seventh General Session — 9:30 a.m.

Address: Dr. Katharine Lenroot, Chief, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor

Symposium and Participants:

Dr. Frederick H. Allen, Director, Child Guidance Clinic, Philadelphia; Dr. Samuel Z. Levine, the Society of the New York Hospital; J. S. Sproul, Program Executive, National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations; Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, Social Security Board, Federal Security Agency; Miss Beatrice McConnell, Director, Industrial Division, Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor.

Eighth General Session — 2:00 p.m.

Assembly singing

Magazine Hour: Mrs. James Fitts Hill

Report of findings committee

Installation of officers

Address: Robert Russell Wicks, D.D., Dean, University Chapel, Princeton University

Closing ceremony

EXPERTS AND "RESOURCE" PEOPLE

In addition to the officers and chairmen of the National Congress, a number of experts and "resource" people will take part in the panels, symposiums, and workshops. Among these experts will be the following:

Elizabeth Mayes, Coordinator, School Lunch Program, U.S. Office of Education; Edna Amidon, Chief, Home Economics Research, U.S. Office of Education; Mrs. Margaret Morris, Food Distribution Administration, Department of Agriculture; William

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L. Doudna, News Editor, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Madison; Miss Beatrice McConnell, Director, Industrial Division, Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor.

Dr. Walter Clarke, Executive Director, American Social Hygiene Association; Dr. Mayhew Derryberry, Chief, Field Activities in Health Education, U.S. Public Health Service; Dr. W. W. Bauer, Bureau of Health Education, American Medical Association; Mrs. Hortense Hilbert, Associate Director, National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

Marian Telford, Special Representative, Field Organization Department, National Safety Council; Everett R. Clinchy, President, National Conference of Christians and Jews; Elise Ruffini, Director, Art Department, Columbia University; Mrs. Dora Lewis, Director, Home Economics Department, New York University; Caroline B. Zachary, Bureau of Child Guidance, New York City Board of Education.

Dr. Bess Goodykoontz, Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Office of Education; Judith Waller, Director, Public Service, Central Division, NBC; D. R. Reagan, Bureau of Motion Pictures, Office of War Information; Winifred Hathaway, Associate Director, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness; Lilla Belle Pitts, Music Educators National Conference; E. Urner Goodman, Director, Division of Program, Boy Scouts of America; Mrs. Alice Conway Carney, Community Relations Bureau, Girl Scouts, Inc.

Miss C. Frances Loomis, Program Director, Camp Fire Girls, Inc.; L. Marion Moshier, Senior Library Supervisor, Division of Adult Education and Library Extension, New York State Department of Education; Emily Hickman, Chairman, Education Committee, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace.

Edward B. Marks, Jr., War Relocation Authority; Lee F. Johnson, Executive Vice-President, National Public Housing Conference, Inc.; Calla Van Syckle, Group Service Branch, Office of Price Administration; Roy Johnson, Special Representative, American Red Cross; and Nancy Larick, Education Section, War Finance Division, Treasury Department.



SIGNIFICANCE OF NEW Membership FIGURE

THREE million members! More than three million! In fact, 3,054,950 when all the April 15 "returns" were counted. This would be legitimate cause for rejoicing at any time, but during a war year it ranks as a major achievement. And it will bring joy to the heart of every officer and every chairman in every parent-teacher association throughout the land.

To gain almost half a million new members during times like the present is the best possible proof of the *worthwhileness* of the parent-teacher movement. Convinced of this worthwhileness, members have overcome transportation problems and have deliberately planned their time so as to attend the meetings, regardless of all the extra duties that war work and wartime help shortages have placed on every adult. Only an organization with sound objectives—and with sound methods of achieving them—could keep its present members and gain new ones during wartime.

Probably no other organization not directly connected with the war effort has shown such a tremendous growth during a war year.

It speaks well for the sense of values of these three million men and women who realize that the long-time merits of parent-teacher objectives must not be forgotten in the pressure of immediate, war-conditioned duties. It speaks especially well for the many thousands of parent-teacher associations throughout the country who have kept up the interest and enthusiasm in their meetings in spite of all the handicaps—and who have thereby attracted new members to their ranks. Most of all, it speaks highly for the officers and Membership chairmen of every P.T.A., for it was primarily through their untiring efforts that this great gain was made.

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS

How true it is that "nothing succeeds like success." This gratifying increase in membership can act as a springboard to greater gains during the coming year. It gives every Membership chairman a real "lift," as well as one of his finest talking points. To

hesitant parents who say, "Yes, I know the P.T.A. is a fine thing, but with all my war work I just haven't the time for it now," the enterprising Membership chairman can answer: "I can understand how you feel, but this can't be postponed until after the war. Children can't be pigeonholed. Our membership is growing by leaps and bounds—literally by hundreds of thousands—in spite of the war and its demands. Half a million new members came in last year." Just this simple statement is bound to have an effect, for the half-hearted ones will think, "Well, if all those others can find the time for it, I guess I can."

"NEWSPAPERS, PLEASE COPY"

The new membership figure—3,054,950—is the sort of news that can well be tied in with local newspaper accounts of parent-teacher meetings and other activities. When the Publicity chairman gives a release to the papers, he can add a line to the effect that "the _____ Parent-Teacher Association is a unit of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, which has just announced an increase of nearly half a million members during the past year, making a total membership of more than three million men and women."

FIGURES AND PERCENTAGES

A total membership figure of 3,054,950 represents an increase of 442,605 over the previous year's total of 2,612,345. The highest gain in any one state was 75,623, or a 66 per cent increase over the previous year. The next highest gain was 71,553 new members. Every state in the Union and the District of Columbia showed an increase in membership.

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Volume II

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Published monthly from August through May, bi-monthly June and July, at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois, by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. Subscription price: 20 cents a year. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office, Chicago, Illinois, Jan. 18, 1941. Additional entry at Aurora, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1939. Under Act of March 3, 1879.

HOW DID YOU LIKE *The Baxters?*

On Saturday, May 20, the Baxter program will complete its 1943-44 series of broadcasts. Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, chairman of the radio project committee, is anxious to include your comments on these broadcasts in her report to the Congress. Please ask your members to write her — fully and freely — telling how they liked the Baxter family on the air. Address the letters to Mrs. Mulberry, in care of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago 5, Illinois.

Buys a Copy for Every Local

The Ohio Congress of Parents and Teachers has bought 1,500 copies of THE PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION: ITS ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT, and is sending a copy to the library of every parent-teacher association in the state.

I Am an American Day May 21

By proclamation of the President of the United States, Sunday, May 21, has been designated as "I Am an American Day." The purpose of the day, as stated in the official proclamation, is "for the honoring of American citizenship by giving special recognition to all our citizens who have attained their majority or have been naturalized during the past year," and the President calls upon "Federal, state, and local officials and patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to plan and hold, on or about May 21, exercises designed to assist our citizens, both native-born and naturalized, to understand more fully the great privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in our democracy."

New Parent Education Study Courses

- *Life at the Preschool Level*
- *Guiding the Citizens of Tomorrow*
- Start in the September, 1944 issue of the *National Parent Teacher*
- Send today for leaflets listing the monthly topics.



STREAMLINERS



A Cooperative Pageant

The South Pasadena, California, Council celebrated Founders Day with an elaborate pageant, "Foundations for Freedom." As reported by Mrs. William A. Pettit, vice-president of the Council, the significant feature of this pageant was the fact that it "showed how all departments in the P.T.A. can unite in one big project and carry their objectives into the actual life and workings of the community. The objective of the South Pasadena Council for the year was to make the entire city a part of the parent-teacher program. The pageant met this goal and at the same time gave a Founders Day program worthy of the Founders." Seven hundred and fifty people were in the cast, and the Council had the full cooperation of the schools, the service clubs, and the defense organizations of South Pasadena and San Marino.

P. T. A.'s in War-Housing Areas

Five new elementary P.T.A.'s have been organized in the war-housing areas of San Diego, California, with a sixth one almost completed, reports Mrs. C. E. Allanson, president of the San Diego Council. "This is a true war service, we feel, drawing newcomers from all parts of the United States into our community life and making them feel welcome in this great organization, working for the welfare of children."

Founders Day Celebration

At its February meeting, the Burleigh Rural School P.T.A., of Whittemore, Michigan, honored its own past presidents in addition to the usual Founders Day observance. Seven of the ten past presidents attended the meeting. An unusual feature was the beautiful centerpiece for the main table, consisting of a replica of the Birney Memorial.

Successful School Lunch Program

From Mrs. Ruth Long Dary, of Manhattan, Kansas, comes an enthusiastic account of the school lunch program in the Woodrow Wilson School. "We started the hot lunch program on November first," writes Mrs. Dary, "with a paid cook and three volunteer mother helpers daily. We feed from 125 to 150 every day, and to date have served 11,000 meals. Our P.T.A. nutrition chairman does the bookkeeping and the marketing, and two home economists help her make out the weekly menus. One mother schedules all volunteer helpers, which is a big job in itself. In cooperation with Kansas State College we are keeping records of the children who eat in the lunchroom regularly, occasionally, and not at all, and we are comparing the weights, scholarship, and attendance of the three groups."

National Family Week

May 7-14

The week of May 7-14 has been initiated and sponsored as National Family Week by a group of various religious communions. Its purpose is to call the attention of the whole community to its responsibility for safeguarding family life and protecting the home against wartime hazards. The observance is promoted by each religious communion directly through its own agencies and through various Federal agencies working in conjunction with the Office of Civilian Defense.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has always worked toward these objectives, especially through its committee on Home and Family Life. No doubt many parent-teacher associations will wish to observe the week with some special program or some fitting addition to their regular program. It is a particularly good time to call attention to special family needs and problems resulting from wartime living conditions.

**HAVE YOU ORDERED "COMMUNITY LIFE IN A DEMOCRACY" FOR
YOUR P.T.A. BOOKSHELF?**

